

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-11 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicant's claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claim Amendments

With this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, and 11. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the original claims, but are rather for precision of language and to explicitly recite within the claim what was believed to have already been implicitly defined therein. Accordingly, these amendments do not foreclose application of reasonable equivalents.

Arquilevich

Claims 1-3, 5, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Arquilevich et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,477,089 ("Arquilevich").

Applicant submits that Arquilevich fails to disclose or suggest detecting an end position of a medium in a main scanning direction and changing a starting position or a terminating position, in the main-scanning direction, of ejecting liquid, where the main-scanning direction is the direction in which the ejection head travels, as recited in Claim 1 and Claim 11.

As described and illustrated in Arquilevich, the media detect switch detects a leading edge or trailing edge of a print medium, where the leading edge and trailing edge are the top and bottom ends of the print medium in a paper-feed direction (i.e. a sub-scanning direction opposite to the direction in which the carriage moves). There is no disclosure or suggestion in Arquilevich

of detecting an end of a print medium in a main-scanning direction. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Arquelevich of changing a starting position or a terminating position, in a main-scanning direction, of ejecting liquid onto the print medium. In other words, Arquelevich fails to disclose or suggest changing the position at which a print head begins to eject liquid before crossing a side edge of a print medium or changing the position at which a print head stops ejecting liquid after crossing the opposite side edge of a print medium.

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicant submits that Arquelevich fails to anticipate Claims 1 and 11 and that Claims 2, 3, 5, and 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Quintana

Claims 1 and 4-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Quintana, U.S. Patent No. 5,466,079 ("Quintana").

Applicant submits that Quintana fails to disclose or suggest detecting an end position of a medium in a main scanning direction and changing a starting position or a terminating position, in the main-scanning direction, of ejecting liquid, where the main-scanning direction is the direction in which the ejection head travels, as recited in Claim 1 and Claim 11.

Quintana is generally directed to an apparatus for detecting a media leading edge and for eliminating pick skew. (Abstract). Quintana describes a method of detecting an end of a media sheet (in a feed direction) and then adjusting the positioning of the media sheet in order to eliminate pick skew. (Abstract, Col. 2, lns. 24-39). Quintana fails to disclose or suggest changing

a starting position or a terminating position of ejecting ink, in a main-scanning direction, rather, according to Quintana, the problem of paper skew is corrected by adjusting the paper.

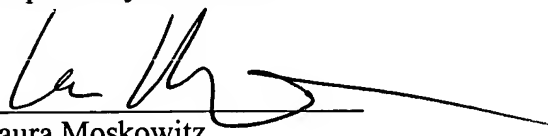
Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicant submits that Quintana fails to anticipate Claims 1 and 11 and that Claims 4-10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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